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DOWNTOWN, PARK SLOPE & BAY RIDGE EDITIONS

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The Brooklyn Paper / Tim Collins

Tunnel of love

Vanessa Francis and Matthew Solly were married at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Brooklyn Heights on Saturday — then promptly gave 4 train riders a thrill as the entire wedding party hopped a Manhattan-bound train.

COPS TARGET ROGUE BIKES

Issue \$120 red-light tickets

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Police cracked down on rule-breaking bicyclists in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill last Friday, issuing tickets for running red lights and then slapping offenders with additional summonses for minor infractions, including one bicyclist who didn't have a bell.

The drag-net snared 36 bicyclists on the popular DeKalb Avenue bike lane that links the two neighborhoods with Downtown Brooklyn.

Bikers protested that they're being prosecuted for victimless crimes.

"I admit the red light was a red light," said Gideon Levy who was busted on DeKalb Avenue near the police precinct building at Clarkson Avenue. "But when I go through red lights, I always look to see if pedestrians and cars are coming. There should be a similar attitude as



The Brooklyn Paper / Steve Delaney

Bicyclists typically run the red light on DeKalb Avenue and Carlton Street.

See **TICKETS** on page 15

Planners: Let's make history in Park Slope

Civic group would triple the nabe's landmark zone

By Ben Muessegger
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's largest historic district would triple in size — and become the biggest in the city — under a proposal unveiled last week by a Park Slope community group.

The Park Slope Civic Council is aiming to expand the neighborhood's 1,975-building historic district to include more than 5,000 structures that constitute nearly the entire neighborhood bounded by Prospect Park West, Flatbush Avenue, Fifth Avenue and 15th Street.

"The Civic Council recognizes the historical and architectural significance of the entire Park Slope neighborhood and seeks to forever preserve its unique character and sense of place," said the group's resolution, which was approved unanimously last Thursday night.



The Park Slope Civic Council wants to greatly expand the neighborhood's historic district, a move that would protect genuinely historic structures, but also include plenty of run-of-the-mill properties.

The plan, a decade in the making, calls upon the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission to expand the existing historic district — which includes the eastern part of the neighborhood between Park Place and 14th Street — in three phases, first with a swath of 1,350 buildings bounded by Flatbush Avenue, Prospect Park West, 15th Street, Seventh Avenue and sections of Union Street and Fifth Avenue.

The first stage also calls for investigating landmarking all of the buildings on Prospect Park West, Plaza Street, and Flatbush Avenue east of Sixth Avenue that were omitted from the historic district enacted by the city in 1973. After the Landmarks Preservation Commission investigates the first phase — a process that insiders estimate could take two

See **HISTORY** on page 13

A crash course!

Atlantic Avenue still crazy unsafe

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The so-called Avenue of Death and Destruction is still living up to at least part of its name.

An astounding nine crashes were reported at the problem intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Hoyt Street between April 1 and May 4 — the same corner where a bystander was killed in October, 2006, after two cars collided.

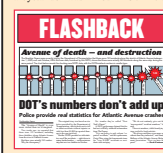
"It's really troubling to think about this treacherous spot," said Margaret Casack, president of the Hoyt Street Association. "I do not walk at that corner because I don't trust it."

Some of the smash-ups sent automobiles careening onto the sidewalk — a harrowing sight

— but no bystanders were injured in the latest crashes, and there have been no fatalities among drivers or passengers either, according to the Department of Transportation.

The agency said that it is analyzing the accident reports and did not yet have an explanation for the burst of collisions — though

See **CRASH** on page 11



The Brooklyn Paper / Jeff S. Marder

More delays on the BQE

State says repairs won't start until 2020

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

State officials revealed on Tuesday night that a colossal renovation of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway won't likely begin until 2020 — nearly 30 years beyond the roadway's original lifespan.

The shocking announcement came as the state Department of Transportation told Community Board 2 that repairs to the deteriorating 1-1/2-mile triple cantilever stretch under the Brooklyn Heights Promenade wouldn't start until 2020, two years after the 2018 launch it announced last fall.

That part of the roadway was built in 1949 to last just 40 years — though Peter King, the state director of the BQE project, said it is still "safe."

Later, he said that the road still has a "10- to 15-year



The cantilevered section of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

window" before it declines steeply.

But 2020 — the shaky new start date for the reconstruction — is 11 years away.

Locals seemed nervous about any delays on fixing the decrepit roadway.

"How did we lose two years?" John Dew, chairman of Community Board 2, asked at the meeting.

Officials explained the delay simply: the project to rebuild the highway between Sands Street and Atlantic Avenue is awfully complex.

The roadway includes 21 bridges, crosses five subway tunnels, wraps around densely populated neighborhoods, abuts the proposed Brooklyn Bridge Park and carries 140,000 vehicles a day. As such, it's impossible to pinpoint a start date at this time.

"Hopefully, we didn't lose two years," said King. "It's very difficult to be exact."

He cited the "smooth" 10-year planning process to rebuild the Kosciuszko Bridge in Greenpoint as an example of the endurance required in monumental infrastructure projects.

Referencing Winston Churchill, King said: "We may be at the end of the beginning."

Besides simply replacing the failing interstate, King told the audience at NYU-Polytechnic Institute in Downtown that the project would try to improve some of the glaring problems motorists have experienced for years, like:

- narrow lanes.
- no shoulder.
- near constant traffic.

See **DELAYS** on page 2

Feds: Superfund no cure for canal stink

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The proposed federal clean-up of the Gowanus Canal would not correct the deficiencies of the aging city sewer system that dumps untreated sewage into the foul waterway each year, a top-ranking official in the Environmental Protection Agency told The Brooklyn Paper.

At the same time, the feds also cast new doubt on Mayor Bloomberg's alternative to the Superfund clean-up hours before officials from the mayor's office presented their counter position at a civic meeting on Monday night in Carroll Gardens.

The EPA, which is evaluating a state request to place the canal on the Superfund list, told The Brooklyn Paper that it's focused on removing the toxic sediments on the floor of the canal and not solving the bigger problem: preventing 300 million of gallons raw human waste



that pours into the Gowanus every year after heavy rainfalls.

"It doesn't have anything to do with the problem that the Superfund is looking at — which is the legacy of 150 years of industrial activity there in the muck," said Walter Magdan, who directs the EPA's Superfund program in New York.

Magdan said his agency's primary objective is to dredge PCBs, dioxin and coal tars, and seal off continuing pollution that leeches into the 1.8-mile canal from toxic sites on the banks — work that Magdan "guesstimates" would cost \$300 million to \$400 million, some of it paid for by

the heirs of companies that caused the pollution in the first place.

So-called "water quality" issues — like the city's failed system of dumping sewer overflows into the nearest body of water — are the state's responsibility.

That said, Magdan said the EPA would fix the sewers as part of its Superfund effort if they prove to be a significant source of toxics like the PCBs found on the bottom of the Gowanus — though he said that it is unlikely that PCBs and dioxins are caused by the sewage.

The revelation helps clarify persistent questions about the goals — and the likely success — of the federal Superfund remediation, a lengthy

See **CANAL** on page 13

SUPERFUND COUNTDOWN

55

DAYS UNTIL CLOSE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
(As of Friday, May 15)

Your chance to vent

The Environmental Protection Agency has extended the public-comment period regarding its proposal to designate the Gowanus Canal as a federal Superfund site to July 8. To submit your comment, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/nypd/pdcom.htm.



Jeff Samaha, owner of Pierre's in Windsor Terrace, was robbed at gunpoint.

I DARE YOU TO ROB ME!

Shopkeeper puts criminals on notice

for The Brooklyn Paper

A gang of armed robbers has been hitting Windsor Terrace hard, holding up neighborhood bodegas and getting away with lots

of cash — but one of their victims is daring them to come back.

"I'm not afraid — I'll get this son of a bitch," said Jeff Samaha, the manager

of Pierre's Deli 2, a grocery store on the corner of 10th Avenue and 16th Street that was robbed by two gunmen on May 5.

See **DARE** on page 15

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Hero cop not 'Most Wanted'

Bay Ridge officer loses TV show all-star vote

By Thomas Tracy

Community Newspaper Group
Heroic NYPD officer Susan Porcello won't be an "America's Most Wanted" all-star after all — but she doesn't care anyway.

"It's all well and good," said Porcello, who got on the radar screen of the popular TV crime show after she befriended an ailing World War II veteran and then paid for his funeral out of her own pocket.

"I'd do what I did again in a heartbeat," she said. What she did was truly above and beyond the call of duty.

Last July, Porcello was dispatched to Gaspar Musso's Marine Avenue home after a 911 call reported him ill from an overdose of his medication.

Paramedics arrived and began treatment on the diabetic Musso, but Porcello focused on the man's emotional wounds.

Learning that he had no family or friends, Porcello stood by her new "grandpa," visiting him regularly and helping him connect with other area seniors. Later, Porcello helped get him an apartment in a senior-citizen facility.

Most important, she was right there when the 84-year-old died in November, ensuring that his final wish of being buried next to his mother was honored.



PO Susan Porcello

She used her own money to pay for a funeral at St. Patrick's Church befitting a World War II vet — who fought in the Marianas Islands in 1944.

"No way was I going to let this brave old Marine ... get buried in Potter's Field," she told the Daily News last year.

Porcello arranged for a Marine Corps color guard, and even paid for a wake at McLaughlin's on Third Avenue.

"She went above and beyond," said Deputy Inspector Eric Rodriguez, her commanding officer at the 68th Precinct. "We're always saying that the community is an extension of our family and she proved it." For her to take this step not only gave an area resident the respect and dignity he deserved, but gave a lot of the veterans hope that they're not being forgotten.

Maybe in Bay Ridge, but not with voters nationwide, who ended up making Porcello third to the eventual

winner, Det. William Weight of Peria, Ariz. Weight's story differs from Porcello's in that he was paralyzed from the

chest down after a drug-related shooting in 2005, according to the "America's Most Wanted" Web site.

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BQE...

Continued from page 1

* a high accident rate.

It's too soon to estimate the project's cost, but the federal government and state would shoulder the astronomical price tag. Under existing arrangements, Washington provides 80 percent of the funding and the state ponies up 20 percent.

Another public session is scheduled for June 22, when the public can voice its concerns or make suggestions about rebuilding the BQE to the state.

Brooklyn Heights residents will no doubt share fears that BQE traffic will be diverted through their residential neighborhood when the repairs finally get underway. And planners of Brooklyn Bridge Park, who say their project will be mostly built by 2020, will want to protect their property from a detour, too.

The state Department of Transportation scoping hearing will be June 22 at NYU-Polytechnic Institute (5 Metrotech Center, corner of Jay Street and Myrtle Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn, 718) 462-4526; time is to be determined.

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THE STORM

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

PARK SLOPE

Park dumb! New meters take cards — that aren't for sale!

By Ben Muessig
for The Brooklyn Paper

Drivers, neighbors and merchants who are looking over handfuls of quarters to pay the newly increased parking meter rates during peak hours on Fifth and Seventh avenues say the city's so-called "Park Smart" project isn't living up to its name — because debit cards that render change obsolete aren't being sold in the neighborhood yet.

And that's partly the fault of the local businesses — some of whom have strongly backed the so-called "congestion pricing" for parking spaces, yet aren't selling the cards.

The prepaid cards would allow drivers to swipe instead of using change to pay for

the tripled meter rates, which rose last week from 50¢ to \$1.50 per hour from noon to 4 p.m.

That's an extra four quarters for every 60 minutes — or just enough added coinage to deplete many Park Slope piggybanks and laundry funds.

Supporters of the city's six-month pilot program said that the lack of the convenient prepaid parking cards has made the experiment more taxing.

Catherine Bohne, owner of the Community Bookstore on Seventh Avenue, has been a strong supporter of the "Park Smart" proposal — which city officials claim will free up parking and decrease congestion caused by drivers circling the neighborhood in search of a space.



The expensive parking meters accept "Park Smart" cards (arrow) though they're not available!

But she's not selling the digital cards, though she admitted that they would "make things easier for everybody."

Department of Transportation spokesman Scott Gustafson said that his agency has solicited Park Slope vendors to stock the cards, but has found no takers yet.

To sell the cards, which

are available in \$20 and \$50 increments, businesses have to lay out at least \$300. The businesses do make a small profit from the sales, a source told The Brooklyn Paper.

For now, interested drivers can purchase the prepaid parking cards online or at the Municipal Building in (gasp) Lower Manhattan.

But until Park Slope stores start offering the cards, neighborhood drivers will have to scrounge for change — lots of it.

"The main problem is the quarters," said Seventh Avenue driver Madeline Zehn. "Every few weeks, I stop by the bank to get a few rolls of quarters just to feed these machines! It's really frustrating."

Driver Wayne Haynes was also annoyed at the "inconvenience," as he put it.

"It's ridiculous!" Haynes said after pulling into a spot on Seventh Avenue. "It's stupid and it's inconvenient. It's like they try to make the whole process as difficult as can be."

— with Emilia Brock

BOERUM HILL

'Rock' wall of ages

Garage will become climbing center

By Thomas Tracy
Community Newspaper Group

Finally, Brownstone Brooklynites will be able to get their rocks off on, well, rocks.

The old Daily News garage on Third Avenue in Boerum Hill is being remade into Brooklyn Boulders, a rock-climbing center that will be a mountaineer's Nirvana.

The off-the-wall business venture (pun intended) is expected to be partially opened by the second week of July.

Lance Pinn said that he and his two partners wanted to bring rock-climbing to Downtown Brooklyn, but didn't find an adequate spot until they saw the Daily News garage, a surprisingly cavernous building between Degraw and Douglass streets, across from Thomas Greene Park and the Double D public pool.

"It looks like a 20 foot building [from the outside], but there's an inset inside that goes up to 30 feet, five inches," he said.

Such height will be enough to accommodate the center's biggest architectural flourish: a replica of the Brooklyn Bridge, suitable for climbing.

"We love the Brooklyn Bridge," Pinn said. "It's an iconic structure that you can't climb."

Rock-climbing walls exist in Manhattan and elsewhere in



Inside walls will be challenging, judging by these angled frames.

Brooklyn, such as at the Aviator Sports complex in Flushing Meadows and the less-challenging k&l rock wall at Powerplay on Third Avenue near Eighth Street. Mostly, indoor climbers have to settle for a single wall or two at a gym.

As a result, Pinn said he was surprised to discover how many avid "rockers" there are in town.

"The support from the community has been outrageous," he said. "Since we started construction, we've had about 70 people come to us right from the neighborhood asking if they can help out. There are so many climbing enthusiasts right here."

Devotes claim that rock climbing is not only good exercise, but fun for families because a good center offers climbs of varying degrees of difficulty.

Plus, the obvious: "They also make a fun potential date venue," posted a man who identified himself only as "The Chicken" on Brownstoner.com, a Web site. "[Plus], you get to assess your date's level of fitness!"

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Remsen cathedral in trouble

By Evan Gardner
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Heights' own Notre Dame is in line for a multi-year makeover of Biblical proportions.

Father James Root of Our Lady of Lebanon Catholic Cathedral, which is the seat of the country's entire 100,000-member Maronite Christian community, is helping spearhead a campaign to raise funds to restore the 165-year-old edifice on Remsen Street.

"We need about \$3 million," said Root, noting that the church has not undergone any major restoration in recent memory. "The stained glass needs to be cleaned, the pipe organ needs to be rebuilt, and we'd like to install air conditioning."

Root led The Brooklyn Paper on a survey of the building, proudly showing off historical artifacts, such as marble tiles from the French and Lebanese pavilions at the 1939 World's Fair, and massive bronze medallions taken from the 1930s French luxury



liners. Norman Gothic that is possibly the building's most recognizable exterior feature.

But he also interrupted himself to point out several spots in need of repair.

"Here's some water dam-

age from the bell tower," said Root. "And here's a piece of marble that I am very afraid could fall off the wall. The sidewalks are also terrible."

The Maronite faith dates back to early fifth-century Lebanon, and its members constituted a majority of the population of Lebanon until the mid-20th century.

Members of the roughly 2,000-person congregation met last Tuesday night to discuss fundraising plans, which will include seeking donations from churchgoers and a Lebanese food festival on May 28-31.

The work, once it is begun, could take three to four years, estimates Root, but plans have already been set in motion.

"We've started getting permits, and an architectural firm has been hired," he said.

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Smartmom raises her glass to new Slope bar

What a bunch of totalitarians in Park Slope. That was Smartmom's reaction upon hearing that there was a brouhaha brewing on Park Slope Parents list-serve because the owner of Bar Toto, a restaurant that serves — gasp — wine and beer, planned to open a new restaurant across the street from PS 107 on Eighth Avenue.

It turned out that only one person was making noise about the restaurant, which most everyone else was eagerly looking forward to.

"I have no children currently enrolled at 107, however nor would I want my children entering and exiting the building with a bar in plain sight," wrote the man, whose name Smartmom is concealing only because she's nice.

The response was swift from other parents in the group.

"There are two other bars within one block of 107 — and I never had to show any beer-drinking second graders from my stoop," wrote one pro-Bar Toto person. "I also never noted any raucous adult drinking, especially between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. I have seen many 107 students eating at these establishments with their parents in (gasp!) plain view of the bar!"

Eighth Avenue Mom also posted in favor of the bar. "I have no problem having my child see people enjoying a glass of wine in a sidewalk cafe," she wrote. "I see no harm in having my child enter or exit school with a bar in plain sight. We live in New York City; there are bars everywhere. More important, I would prefer to welcome a new business rather than take the opposite approach: protesting before it opens on the specious notion that it is inherently bad."

"It's not as though our neighborhood has been over-



By Louise Crawford

run with nuisance bars," she concluded.

About 10 parents added their approval. The original poster, apparently shamed, did not respond publicly again.

Still, the mini-crisis was plenty annoying. Heavens to Betsy! Can you imagine a restaurant that serves wine and beer opening near a school in New York City?

Think of the moral fiber of those poor children. They might see someone drinking a glass of wine. Their tender sensibilities could be destroyed forever.

Smartmom had such a negative reaction to the notion of a "Park Slope Temperance League." She is leery of the demonization alcohol that has grown out of the culture of 12-step programs.

Yes, alcoholism is a bad thing; it mangles lives and destroys families. But there is such thing as responsible drinking. A glass of wine with dinner is not "The Lost Weekend."

Well, everyone knows that she's damaged. But it's not because she was surrounded by adults who drank hard liquor, or because she played bartender and sipped champagne on New Year's Eve.

For one thing, she never developed a drinking problem. She remembers drinking beer at the West End Bar, a defunct jazz club near the lumbia, when she was in high school. And there must have been alcohol at high school parties. When she got to college, she used to go to a happy hour at a Holiday Inn and drink White Russians with her best friend.

not be served within 200 feet of a school, but a restaurant can get a beer and wine license.

Smartmom is living proof that it's not such a big deal for the kids to see the adults drinking. Back in the 1960s and '70s, Smartmom's dad would have a glass of Scotch when he got home from the advertising agency (she can still hear the tinkling of ice cubes). Her mother would join him on the white couch in the living room with a mix of gin and orange juice.

It's not like they got crazy drunk or anything. It just smoothed out some of the sharp edges that accumulated during the day. It was her parents way of getting some R&R before dinner.

On New Year's Eve 1969, Groovy Grandpa let Smartmom, Diaper Diva and their friend, Best and Oldest, have a sip of champagne as the '60s turned into the '70s. "Gag. It tasted like medicine."

They were only 11 years old, but Smartmom will never forget what fun it was to taste a grown-up drink on that memorable night — even if it was awful.

So was Smartmom damaged?

She's damaged. But it's not because she was surrounded by adults who drank hard liquor, or because she played bartender and sipped champagne on New Year's Eve.

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Smartmom is OK with restaurant Peter Schafan's plan to open across the street from PS 107 on Eighth Avenue.

But Smartmom liked the free shrimp and the mozzarella sticks more than the creamy drink.

Yes, Smartmom is the first to admit that she likes her Chardonnay and her weekly Margaritas with her writer's group at Le Tag. Smartmom likes to be light-headed and loose; she likes to feel a little buzz every now and then.

And Teen Spirit and the Oh So Feisty One have seen Smartmom and Hepcat finish off a bottle of wine at dinner, and have seen Hepcat's single malt Scotch bottles like Balvenie, Oban, Lagavulin and Laphroig.

Will they be damaged? Probably not. But they will learn to drink — and post on Park Slope Parents — responsibly.

Louise Crawford also writes Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn, a Web site.

FAMILY CALENDAR

SAT, MAY 16

9 am: Kids two-mile run to raise money for the Children of Fallen Soldiers Fund. \$35. St. Bernadette School, 1802 Street and 13th Avenue in Dyker Heights, (718) 251-4469, www.knightssax.org.

10 am-2 pm: Spring Fling Street carnival with petting zoo, mini-canoe, crafts and more. \$20 (all-day pass, or pay for activities individually). Families First (250 B'way St. between Court and Clinton streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 237-8662), www.familiesfirstbrooklyn.org.

10 am-3 pm: Family Arts Day. Crafts, family portraits, music and more. Free. PS 46K/100 Clermont Ave. between Myrtle and Park avenues in Fort Greene.

11 am and 3 pm: Green-Wood Cemetery tour of the historic cemetery. \$10 (\$25 family). Green-Wood Cemetery, 145 Street in Sunset Park, (718) 786-7200, www.greenwood.com.

11 am-4 pm: PS 154 Spring Carnival. Games, crafts, music, food and more. Cakes and pastries. Free. PS 154/1625 11th Ave. at Windsor Place in Windsor Terrace.

11:30 am and 3 pm: Learn about wind. Brooklyn Children's Museum, 145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400, www.brooklynkids.org.

12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp." \$8 (kids, \$7, Pupapetters, \$138). Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-3391, www.puppetworks.org.

1:30 pm: Science Fun. Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center venue info above.

4 pm: Rolie Polie Guise. Sing and dance with local children's band. Reservations suggested. \$15 (\$5 siblings, adults free). Gumbo (493 Atlantic Street between Nevins Street and Third Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 855-7808).

SUN, MAY 17

11 am and 3 pm: Green-Wood Cemetery tour. See Saturday, May 16.

11:30 am and 3 pm: Learn to lat. your event, visit: BrooklynPaper.com/events/submit

about wind. See Saturday, May 16.

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Elementary Division
Director: Bobbie Finkelstein
June 30 to Aug 15
Ages: entering 4-4
Full day: 9 am-5 pm
Extended hours: 8 am-6 pm
Activities: Swimming (instructional and recreational), arts and crafts, music, nature, sports, gymnastics, circus arts, trips, 5 days per week
Movin' On Travel Camp
Director: Bobbie Finkelstein
June 30 through Aug 15
Ages: entering grades 5-9
Full day: 9 am-5 pm
Extended hours: 8 am-6 pm
Activities: Daily trips, swimming, two 3-day overnights, pre-CIT program for kids entering grade 9
Kim's Kid's Summer Camp
PS 321, Seventh Avenue Park Slope, (718) 768-6419
Director: Dan Moinester

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611 Eighth Ave., Park Slope, (718) 788-3620, parkexplorers.com
Director: Chris Altman (parkexplorers@yahoo.com)
Ages: 4-14
June 27 to August 29
Full day: 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Extended hours: 'til 6 pm
Early drop off: 8 am

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Sitt not on it

Developer's Coney 'Festival' suffers setback

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

In an embarrassing setback, Coney Island's would-be summer developer Joe Sitt, has postponed the highly publicized grand opening of rides, freak shows and vendors this weekend.

Sitt's 'Festival by the Sea' has been hyped for months and will still open this weekend in Coney Island, but only half of the 25 rides will be on hand at the West 10th Street

and Surf Avenue site. Sitt's bazaar of food, crafts and knickknack vendors will be nearby, but they will be exposed to the elements because of a tent mishap.

"There's still going to be a lot going on," said Loren Riegelhaupt, a Sitt spokesman.

Coney Island visitors can expect the full monty by Memorial Day weekend, the traditional start to the summer season, Riegelhaupt added. But Sitt's company, Thor Equities, has not succeeded in past summers with temporary rides and attractions to fill vacant lots in the company's portfolio of 10-1/2 acres in the historic People's Playground. Last year, Sitt's self-described "The Summer of Hope" turned into the summer of hope when carnies packed up and departed early. This summer's rough start is just a fluke, affirmed Riegelhaupt.

"We're very committed to

Private developers would be able to build hotels and other tourist attractions in the vicinity, under the mayor's rezoning plan, which is nearing final approval in the city's land-use review process.

Sitt's detractors crowded upon hearing that the "Festival by the Sea" had been blown off course. "Amusements aren't his industry," said Diana Carlin, the founder of the Lola



Some of Joe Sitt's "Festival by the Sea" tents are up in Coney Island, but the self-styled savior of the People's Playground has run into major snafus on the eve of the festival's opening this weekend.

Staar boutique, referring to Sitt's background as a shopping mall developer. "He obviously doesn't have the necessary experience in the amusement business," Carlin's shop was a Boardwalk tenant of Sitt, but he did not renew her lease because of her history of criticizing him. She's relocated to the

Stillwell Avenue subway station and plans to reopen on Memorial Day weekend. But in Coney Island, the success of one merchant in the business helps everyone, so Carlin didn't laugh long. "I hope he succeeds, because Coney Island needs more amusements," she said.

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Yarn tootin'

Montague Street knitters put a sock on those meters

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

This much is clear: Montague Street is knit to be reckoned with these days. Volunteers sheathed the commercial corridor's 69 parking meters in colorful custom-made wool booties on Wednesday night in an eagerly awaited public art project organized by

the Montague Street Business Improvement District to gussy up the main street of Brooklyn Heights.

Doxens of yarn spinners fanned out to install the sleeves made by volunteers from across the borough and inspired by similar spectacles on parking meters in Paris in 2007 and a bus in Mexico City in 2008.



Volunteers started installing knitted "meter cozies" all along Montague Street on Wednesday.

A 'Fetish' for bikes!

Talk about your easy riders! The City Reliquary held its annual Bike Fetish Day in Williamsburg on Saturday, bringing out hundreds of lovers of human-powered two-wheelers for a raucous street party.



— Mike Short

CAMP GUIDE...

Continued from page 4
Bus transportation in many brownstone Brooklyn areas
Activities: No two days are alike! Sports of all kinds, nature walks, hiking, arts and crafts, gymnastics, tennis, drama, karate, singing, trips each week in and around NYC. Special programs in sports and theater for third grade and up.

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OPEN HOUSE Saturday, May 16, at 2 and 3 pm
In Windsor Terrace, Park Slope, Kensington, Bay Ridge, (718) 788-7722, park-slopedaycamp.com, camp@parkslopedaycamp.com
Director: Ronny Schneider
Ages: entering pre-K-9
June 30 to Aug 29

Full day: 8 am-4 pm, early dismissal optional for young kids. Extended hours to 6:30 pm
Transportation: Free morning shuttle from most Brownstone Brooklyn and Bay Ridge

Activities: Outdoor camp with sports, trips, gymnastics, drama, nature, Olympics, travel camp (featuring overnight trips), leadership program for grades 9 and 10. Accredited by the American Camp Association

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9216 Seventh Ave., Bay Ridge, (718) 836-9800, ext. 3250, www.polyprep.org
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9216 Seventh Ave., Bay Ridge, (718) 836-9800, ext. 3250, www.polyprep.org
Director: Sonny Savary
Bus available (extra fee)
June 29-July 31
Ages: Grades 4-9
Full day: 8:45 am-3:30 pm
Activities: takes place in Poly Prep's air-conditioned arts center, with theater and dance studio. Focus singing, dancing, acting and playing musical instruments. Outdoor games and swimming also included.

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TEEN TERRORS ARE RUNNING WILD

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO
Boorum Hill-Downtown
Teenage criminals ran wild last week. Here's a roundup:

- Two boys were arrested for cornering another kid and stealing his money in the staircase of George Westinghouse HS on Johnson Street on April 24 and 24.

The victim's pockets during the lunch break, his friend kept looking in the school, located between Jay and Bridge streets.

- Four boys stole stuff from a younger girl on Smith Street on May 6.

The girl was walking home from school at around 2:15 pm when a delinquent barred her path and said, "Give me all your things!"

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90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

Birthday bashed

Crooks broke into New Jersey resident's Toyota Camry while he was celebrating his 27th birthday in Williamsburg on May 8.

While the birthday boy was partying at Trash Bar on Grand Street between 8 and 11:10 pm, thieves got into the trunk of his 1995 sedan, which was parked near the corner of South First Street and Driggs Avenue, and snatched thousands of dollars of lighting equipment, three high-end projectors, two laptops, and clothing.

Horrific slashing

Three thugs stabbed a 30-year-old in a seemingly random assault on May 9.

The goons attacked the victim near the corner of Berry and South Ninth streets at around 1:45 am, repeatedly cutting his left arm and torso with a folding knife before fleeing.

Lexus nexus

Thieves stole a Florida's clothing and electronics when he left them in his Lexus overnight on May 8.

The crooks shattered the front window of the sedan, which was parked on Moore Street between White and Bogart streets, between 8 pm and 11 am.

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge

In the window

Someone stole more than \$15,000 worth of stuff from a Ridge Boulevard house on May 5 by climbing through a front window.

The distraught homeowner told cops that she left the house, which is between Shore Road and Marine Avenue, at 9:30 am, and returned at 4 pm to find that the burglar had taken three computers, three cameras, a TV, a fancy watch, and a silver tea set.

Out the window

A 28-year-old woman was burgled through a side window overnight on May 5, but the robbers didn't get much loot.

Cops said the burglar appeared to have entered the house, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, through an unlocked window. The missing items included a cellphone, an iPod and several bank cards.

— Evan Gardner

with a gas that required treatment at Woodhull Hospital.

The wounded victim handed over his wallet, and the thieves fled.

Syna-gagged!

Burglars looted a Rathbone Synagogue, snatching \$750 — most likely during the Sabbath.

The crooks forced their way through the front door of the Yativ Synagogue between 3 pm on May 8 and 10:30 am on May 10.

Once inside the temple, between Bedford and Lee avenues, the derelicts broke through an office door and snatched the cash.

Drive-by mug

A gun-toting thug held up a 27-year-old and fled in a black minivan on May 8.

The crook approached the victim at the corner of Rodney and South Fourth streets at around 5 am and pulled out a black handgun.

Macbook

Bad apples snatched two Macintosh laptops from a Montrose Avenue apartment on May 7.

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens

Cobble Hill-Red Hook

Bad apples

Police busted half of a teen-aged hell-raising duo that attacked and mugged a 15-year-old boy on Verona Street near Coffey Park in Red Hook on May 10.

The victim said that one young goon put him in a chokehold while his partner stole the boy's iPod from his pocket at 2 pm. But when police arrived, the victim was able to identify one of the suspects, who also was in possession of the heated music device.

Hot wheels

Villains stole a man's safely secured motorcycle on Kane Street.

The victim, said he parked the 2001 Yamaha at 11 am on



A drunk driver flipped his car into the Gowanus Canal on Friday night — beginning an hours-long effort to extract the vehicle. Above, emergency responders were on the scene shortly after the car went into the drink. Below, police fish the car out. No one was injured, but firefighter Richard Staiti, of Engine 239 in Park Slope, jumped into the murky inlet to save the driver. He later told the Daily News that he took an extra-long shower afterward. No joke.

Catch of the day

A drunk driver flipped his car into the Gowanus Canal on Friday night — beginning an hours-long effort to extract the vehicle. Above, emergency responders were on the scene shortly after the car went into the drink. Below, police fish the car out. No one was injured, but firefighter Richard Staiti, of Engine 239 in Park Slope, jumped into the murky inlet to save the driver. He later told the Daily News that he took an extra-long shower afterward. No joke.



April 28 and locked the front wheel and ignition as a precaution. But when he returned to the thief grabbed the phone.

Cops in the 76th Precinct reminded victims not to cancel their phone accounts so that police can track the thieves' movements.

Clothes horse

A shy thief ripped off a Fifth Avenue clothing store for more than \$10,000 in silky garments on May 9.

Cops say that the lady shoplifter entered Alta Veza boutique, which is between St. Marks Place and Warren Street, at around 7 pm, grabbed two blouses and two dresses, and ran out.

Stole from hell

Two passengers in a dollar van got into a fight during a May 7 ride down Flatbush Avenue that ended with one man bleeding and another man fleeing.

The victim told cops that he was in the van at around 10:20 pm. When the vehicle stopped near Grand Army Plaza, the other passenger complained about something.

Quickly, the fight escalated until the passenger pulled out a razor and slashed the victim in the face and cheek. The passenger fled, and the van continued on its way.

Lots of burps

It wouldn't be Park Slope without lots of break-ins. Here's a roundup:

• On May 7, a thief entered an Eighth Avenue apartment during the day and stole two laptops and \$2,000 in jewelry. The resident told cops that she was not in the apartment, which is Fifth and Sixth streets, from 8:30 am to 8:20 pm.

• On the same day, a different thief entered a Sixth Avenue apartment, at First Street, through an open window and took a purse, a laptop and a camera. The tenant told cops that she was not there between 6:15 am and 5:50 pm.

• On May 8, a thief broke in through the ceiling of an apartment on 13th Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues to steal \$6,350 in computing and electronic gaming equipment. The resident told cops that he was not there between 9 am and 10 pm.

Car-ied away

It also wouldn't be Park Slope without some car break-ins, also. Here's the wheezy bad news:

• A Verizon van that had been parked on Fourth Avenue between Degraw and Douglass streets at around 11 am on May 5 was broken into and a mobile phone and laptop were taken. A few minutes later, another truck, this time belonging to an unidentified firm, was broken into on the same block. The driver told cops that his cellphone was swiped.

A thief grabbed the laptop out of a car that had been parked on Prospect Park West between President and Union streets on May 7. The driver told cops that he had parked the car at around 5:15 pm and was gone from it for only a few minutes.

• A Staten Island man told cops that someone busted the rear window of his car, which he had parked on Ninth Street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, on May 5 at 6 pm. The thief got away with a laptop that had been hidden beneath a passenger seat.

• A thief grabbed four cases of cigars out of a car that had been parked on Union Street between Nevins Street and Third Avenue at around

1 pm on May 5. The victim told cops that the Dutch Masters smokes were worth more than \$2,800.

• Anna's 10-year-old Honda Civic was briefly swiped from in front of his Sterling Place building sometime between May 5 and May 8, when cops noticed the vehicle with its engine running, no one inside, and no keys in the ignition.

The perp had popped the starter and driven off, but didn't get far — in fact, he abandoned the car on the same block between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

— Gersh Kuntzman

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint-Williamsburg

Car-nage!

Northside muggers are continuing to use cars as getaway vehicles — committing at least three such stick-ups on May 4 alone. Here are the shocking details:

• Two thugs hopped out of a Crown Victoria and pistol-whipped a 28-year-old in a brutal stick up.

The crooks got out of the black Ford sedan at around 5:50 am and pushed the victim against a fence near the corner of North Seventh and Haveney streets.

"Give me your money or I'll hit you," one of the crooks said, as he revealed a black handgun.

Before the victim could hand over his cash, the villain struck him in the back of the head with the pistol, knocking him to the sidewalk.

While the victim was on the ground, the unnamed perp picked the victim repeatedly in the back.

The thugs fled with the victim's cash, bank cards, ID, cellphone, keys, and pager, and escaped in the sedan, which witnesses said also contained a man and a woman.

Two robbers jumped out of a black sedan and held up a 65-year-old at the corner of Union and Driggs avenues.

The thieves pulled out a silver handgun and ordered the victim to hand over her juicy haul — which contained credit cards — and lay on the ground. The crooks then fled in the car.

• Four thieves in a black sedan held up a 54-year-old without even leaving their vehicle.

The crooks told cops that they pulled up to the victim's home, corner of Berry and North 10th streets at around 6 am.

"Give me your money," one of the passengers said, showing off a firearm.

The victim handed over \$600 and the thieves fled.

• Cops locked up a 21-year-old who allegedly held up a 25-year-old woman at gunpoint and fled in a car on May 7.

The suspect — as well as two other perps — approached the victim at around 2:25 am and pressed a blunt object against the victim's stomach, cops said.

"Stay calm — we're taking your stuff," one of the thugs said as he took an iPhone, credit card and wallet.

The thieves fled in a black four-door sedan, but cops were able to recover the bag — and lock up one of the suspects.

Armed mug!

Two armed thugs held up a 31-year-old near the corner of Wythe Avenue and North Ninth Street at around 2 am on May 4.

"Give me everything you got," one of the crooks demanded as he revealed a handgun.

The crooks pilfered the victim's pockets and ordered him to lay on the ground while escaped with the victim's passport, electronic benefits card and bag — which contained a Mac laptop.

Nabbed

Cops nabbed an 18-year-old suspected of using a pellet gun to stick up a 27-year-old on May 4.

The mugger pulled out what appeared to be a black handgun at the corner of Norman Avenue and North Henry Street at around 10:10 pm and ordered the victim to get on the ground and hand over his belongings.

The victim gave up his cellphone and \$170, but cops quickly found a suspect who happened to be in possession of the toy gun and the victim's cellphone.

Freeman felons

Burglars ransacked a Freeman Street building on May 5 and broke into at least two apartments.

The thieves pushed their way through the front door of one residence in the building between 8:30 am and 6 pm and grabbed a TV, laptop, camera, dashboard navigation system and a watch.

The crooks also forced their way through the door of another apartment in the building, which is between Manhattan Avenue and McGuinness Boulevard, and grabbed a cellphone, Mac laptop, Flip camera, and Sony TV between 2:30 and 4:30 pm.

— Ben Mussig

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

May 15, 2009

Circus Maximus!

Brooklyn is not just Ringling Brothers this summer

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Ringling Brothers is just the beginning — Brooklyn is already a tent city. For more than a decade, the borough's community of stilt walkers, aerialists, acrobats, clowns, and sword swallowers has been staging cutting-edge alternative circuses that have brought big time clowning back to its more humble roots.

And this summer, while Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey Circus fills a 2,300-seat big top in Coney Island with its "greatest" spectacle of lions and elephants, the borough's independent circuses will continue to push the envelope with inventive shows in a style that Brooklyn can call its own.

"There is an amazing, growing Brooklyn circus scene," said Keith Nelson, co-founder, executive director, and clown in the Bindlestiff Family Circus — a 16-year-old Williamsburg troupe that combines vaudeville, burlesque, and Wild West-style sideshows in its performances.

"Some of the best variety artists in the world live here — and circus is only getting more popular. Now you have more training facilities than you can shake a trapeze at."

From upstart venues like the House of Yes in Bushwick and the Ruby Streak Trapeze Studio in Sunset Park, to the world-famous Stré Lab for Action Mechanics in Williamsburg, circus performers across the borough are converting lofts and warehouses into practice spaces and venues where they can perfect and showcase their craft — and some insist — and when you are forced to rethink, there is a beauty and realism that comes out of it," said Nelson, whose troupe hosts a monthly open-stage circus performer's night at the Galapagos Art Space in DUMBO.

Brooklyn's venues haven't stood in the way of the Stré company — formerly by the acclaimed modern dance choreographer Elizabeth Stré. "In the aerial dance and circus community in Brooklyn, limitations are your friend. You have to design your act around the small spaces," said Bobby Hedglin-Taylor, director of the trapeze academy at the ground-breaking lab, which is known for training aerialists and inventing death-defying midair contraptions.

The other benefit of the makeshift venues is that they bring the audience closer to the performers, said Karen Gersch, artistic director and ring mistress at CIRCUSSundays, which has won over circus fans for 13 years by putting world-class talent inches away from spectators' faces on a



Join the circus: (Clockwise from top) Lady Circus and the comedy troupe FUCT will perform their Cirque du Quoi at the House of Yes in Williamsburg; Alice Shi and Luke Wilson will perform at CIRCUSSundays at Barge 79 in Red Hook in June. The Bindlestiff Family Circus adds in a vaudeville element to its Williamsburg-based show.

barge in Red Hook.

"It's a real, old-fashioned intimate show," said Gersch. "It's really the closest that anyone could actually be to the action. You have aerials right over your head; your tumblers, you could reach out and touch them."

But it's not just the unorthodox venues that differentiate the circuses of Brooklyn — which also include Circus Amok, the Universal Circus (which just ended its run last month to tepid reviews), and, of course, legendary Coney Island's Cir-

cus Sideshow — from the ringed circuses that tour the country.

According to Anya Sapozhnikova, founder of Bushwick's Lady Circus, Brooklyn's independent circuses are special because they aren't afraid to merge different kinds of circuses into a single show, combining the clowns, jugglers and acrobats of traditional family circuses with raunchy burlesque dancing, shocking sideshow freaks, and the avant-garde aerials of common in European circuses.

"In a lot of these alternative venues in

THEATER

Bindlestiff Family Circus at Galapagos Art Space 16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500, first Monday of every month, 8 pm. Tickets, \$5. **CIRCUSSundays** at the Waterfront Museum & Showboat Barge Pier 44, Conover and Board streets in Red Hook, (718) 684-4779, June 7, 14, 21, 28, 1 and 4 pm. Tickets, \$14 (kids under 12 are \$10). **Coney Island Circus Sideshow** (Surf Avenue and West 12th Street in Coney Island, (718) 372-5199, Saturdays and Sundays until Memorial Day, 1-4 pm, after Memorial Day, expanded hours. Tickets, \$7.50 (children under 12 are \$5). **Lady Circus** and **FUCT** present the "Cirque du Quoi?" at the House of Yes, 642 Meuser St., between Morgan Avenue and Waterbury Street in Bushwick, no phone; May 21-22, 28-30, June 6-8, 8 pm. Tickets, \$20.

Brooklyn, you see all of these different elements of circus married into one — it's a convergence," said Anya Sapozhnikova, whose two-year-old, all-female circus will merge its acrobatics and contraptions with theater and comedy when it stages "Cirque du Quoi?!" with the comedy troupe FUCT later this month.

MUSIC

Kalb joins!

The best folk festival in the city just got one bold-faced name better.

Danny Kalb, one of the founding members of the Blues Project in the 1960s and a legend on today's folk and blues circuit, will close the first annual Brooklyn Folk Festival this weekend at Jolap.

"We moved to add Danny to the Sunday lineup the second we heard that he was available," said Eli Smith, the musicologist who booked the two-dozen artists who will perform at the music hallguitar show starting on Friday night.

"Danny got to play with the old performers whom we still go back to for source recordings today," he added.

Kalb told The Brooklyn Paper that he loves playing with younger performers.

"I just like to be part of the mix," said the Park Slope resident. "I don't believe in the 'young-old' thing. The goal is to play nutritiously and share the traditions."

Kalb promised to play "When Death Comes Creeping into your Room," though he did not think it was planning on a visit to his Seventh Avenue apartment.

"But who knows? Any one of us can be hit by a bus tomorrow," he said.

Now that's a good blues man.

Brooklyn Folk Festival at Jolap (315 Columbia St., between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in the Columbia Street Waterfront District, (718) 395-3214, May 15-17. Tickets are \$10 per day or \$25 for all three days.

— Gersh Kuntzman

MUSIC

Do North

Brooklyn music lovers will no longer have to trek to Austin — or Manhattan — to check out a premiere indie-rock festival.

The first-ever "Northside Festival," June 11-14, will bring 150 acts including the Hold Steady (pictured), Sunset Ruudown, Asobi Seksu, and Brightlight Morning Light to more than 30 venues. With so many bands, the fest is poised to become Brooklyn's take on South by Southwest or the CMJ Music Marathon.

But festival organizer Andrea Rosen claims that the music celebration — which will also include events at local art galleries — will reflect the neighborhood's that make Brooklyn a musical and artistic capital.

"The Northside Festival" is about the location: Williamsburg and Greenpoint. By keeping the scene concentrated, we're able to highlight the independent music and arts industries in Brooklyn and bring crowds to area businesses," she said. "The festival isn't about big industry, it's about people enjoying the music, arts and culture in their own community."

Visit www.northsidefestival.com.

— Ben Muessig

EVENT

Bike flea

It's flea market season. And it's a biking season. Combine those two and you get the Brooklyn Bike Jumble, a bike-themed flea market in Park Slope.

The May 31 event is the brainchild of Harry Schwartzman (pictured), the man behind the NYC Bike Commuter Blog.

"I hope that people come and find themselves a nice bike to ride through the summer," he said. "My main hope is that this event helps get people riding again."

And the first step is buying the right bike. Too often, though, the trek for a Trek leads to a search on Craig's List and a trip to someone's basement in Queens. But at Schwartzman's bike market, the wheels come to you.

And so does the community. "The bike culture in New York is such an amorphous thing," said Henry Carter, co-owner of the new Brooklyn Bicycles in Park Slope. "There is a sense of camaraderie, but no tangible events or places for all of us to come together."

"Brooklyn Bike Jumble," in J.J. Byrne Park (Fifth Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195, Sunday, May 31, 10 am-2 pm. For info, visit www.nybikejumble.com.

— Aisha Gawad

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MON, MAY 18
Community Board 2 Parks and Recreation Committee. Monthly meeting 6 pm. Brooklyn Hospital (Dining Rooms A and B) 121 DeKalb Ave., at St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 596-5410.
Society for Clinton Hill. Bimonthly meeting 7 pm. St. Angela's Hall (267 Waverly Ave. between DeKalb and Willoughby avenues in Clinton Hill), (718) 596-5410.

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY May 16	SUNDAY May 17	TUESDAY May 19	WEDNESDAY May 20	THURSDAY May 21
On the dinnerfront What's better than seeing Budd Schulberg's iconic play, "On the Waterfront," on the waterfront? Here's what: seeing "On the Waterfront" with dinner included! Tonight, Brave New World Repertory Theater offers a reading of the classic play aboard the Barge Museum in Red Hook, the sleepy little mobbed-up port village that inspired the original story. 7:30 pm. Pier 44 (290 Conover St., across from Fairway in Red Hook, (718) 624-4779). Tickets, \$18 (includes the dinner). Guitar Pete grows up You know him as the slacker dude who teaches kids at Music Together in Park Slope. But tonight, Pete Sinjin busts loose with his own original songs in the Steve Earle and Townes Van Zandt tradition. Also on the "unplugged" bill are the Kennedys and Michael Sackler-Berner. 8 pm. Acoustically Related at Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave., between Sterling and St. Johns places in Park Slope, (718) 230-0236). Tickets, \$10.	Fifth fest Do you feel lucky, punk? Well you should, because the Fifth Avenue Fair is back, which means blocks and blocks of street fair fun (and WNBA star Kym Hampton). Better still, head to Southpaw, where the great Brooklyn capella group, the Persuasions (pictured), will perform at 3:30 pm. Inside the club will be a record show with 30 tables and a full bar, too. 11 am-7 pm. Fifth Avenue Fair (Steeling Place to 12th Street in Park Slope); noon-5 pm at Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave., between Sterling and St. Johns places in Park Slope, (718) 230-0236). Tickets, \$5. Info at www.spounds.com.	Must-hear If you love him as the resident expert on "The Daily Show," why wouldn't you pay \$15 to hear John Hodgman (pictured), your Park Slope neighbor, live — with comic Eugene Mirman — in a fundraiser for PS 107? Look all you jealous "comedy" writers' out there, put your issues aside and come to this reading: Hodgman is the best — and he's a good guy, to boot. 7:30 pm. PS 107 (1301 Eighth Ave., at 13th Street in Park Slope, (718) 330-9340). Tickets, \$15.	Prom right Some people loved prom and some people love to talk about our editor here didn't. But either way, head to the Music Hall of Williamsburg's dance party, "The Prom You Were Promised." Replace undesirable prom memories (Eric Clapton's worst song ever, "Wonderful Tonight," was our editor's prom theme!) with new ones. 9 pm. The Prom You Were Promised at Music Hall of Williamsburg (66 N. Sixth St., between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486-5400). Tickets, \$25.	

FRIDAY DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, MAY 15
NEW YORK PHOTO FESTIVAL: Exhibits, panel discussions, awards and more. \$30 festival pass, \$21 day pass (other pricing options available). 10 am-9 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-8779). www.nyphotofestival.com

FILM, "KING LEAR": Jean-Luc Godard's late-career film. 11:15 am, 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm, 9:15 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org

ART OPENING: Pratt student exhibit examining Downtown development projects. Free. 6-8 pm. Metropolitan Exchange (133 Flatbush Ave. between Fulton Street and Lafayette Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn), www.metropolitanexchange.org

STREET DANCE, "CATAPULT": Elizabeth Smith's high-flying dance troupe. \$20 (\$10 kids). 7 pm. Streb Lab for Action Mechanics (51 N. First St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 384-6471). www.streb.org

READING, CHRISTIAN MOERK: Author of "Darling Jan." Free. 7 pm. BookCourt (163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677). www.bookcourt.org

ART OPENING, "RE/BUILD": a collaborative design exhibit of furniture and sculpture made from repurposed building materials. Free. 6-8 pm. 1066 Manhattan Ave. at Eagle Street in Greenpoint, (718) 382-3881). www.thegallery1889.com

BROOKLYN FOLK FESTIVAL: A great line-up. Jersey (310 Columbia St. at Woodluff Street in the Columbia Street Waterfront District, (718) 395-3741). www.brooklynfolkfest.com

THEATER, "THE MERCHANT OF VENICE": All-male production of Shakespeare's drama. \$25-\$65. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org

SILENT AUCTION: Bid on works by Brooklyn artists, see packages and more. Benefit for the International Youth Leadership Institute. Donation suggested. 7:30 pm. South Oxford Square (138 S. Oxford St. between Hanson Place and Atlantic Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 852-9210). www.yli.org

THEATER, "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARK ALLEY": Mother-daughter drama. \$20 (\$12 kids and seniors). 8 pm. Restoration Plaza (1368 Fulton St. at Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 336-9781, ext. 12). www.restorationplaza.org

THEATER, "THE WHOS TOMMY": Rock opera. \$18 (\$14 children and seniors). 8 pm. Gallery Players (199 14th St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 352-3101). galleryplayers.com

THEATER, "SHOWBOAT": Classic musical. \$20 (\$18 children and seniors). 8 pm. Heights Players (26 Willow Pl. between Jordanome and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 237-2753). www.heightsplayers.org

THEATER, "SWENHOOD, THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET": New York Community Theater presents Stephen Sondheim's bloody musical. \$30 (\$15 students and seniors). 8 pm. St. Patrick's Auditorium (9511 Fourth Ave. at 96th Street in Bay Ridge), www.nctheater.com

THEATER, "THE NOSEMAKER'S APPRENTICE": A comedy about a medieval plastic surgeon. \$18. 8 pm. Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-4899). www.bricktheater.com

THEATER, "THE TEMPEST": Shakespeare's romance. \$18 (\$12 students and seniors). 8 pm. St. James Cathedral Pavilion (240 Jay St. at Chapel Street in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 668-4444). www.ameritix.com

NEW INDE CLASSICAL MUSIC: Nadia Philippa presents a concert. \$12. 8 pm. Galapagos Art Space (16 Ave. C in Williamsburg, (718) 222-8500). www.philippapresents.com

FILM, "GREENSBORO - CLOSER TO THE TRUTH": Documentary about 1979 Klan murders. \$10 (\$6 children). 8 pm. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (83 Prospect Park West), Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 668-9922). www.bsec.org

THEATER, "HAMLETS": Moritz Theater presents Shakespeare's tragedy. \$20. 8 pm. Archipelago Theater (498 Court St. between Luger and Nelson streets in Carroll Gardens), www.theateriam.com

DANCE, "LE SERPENT ROUGE": Company XIV presents an erotic, choreographed take on the Adam and Eve story. \$20 (\$15 students). 8 pm. 1803 Bond St. between Sackett and Union streets in Carroll Gardens, (718) 868-4444). www.companyxiv.com

CLASSICAL CONCERT: Works by Saint-Saëns, Schumann, George Perle, Paul Moravec and André

CIVIC CALENDAR

SAT, MAY 16
School of Politics. Learn the basics of GOP politics from an old pro, Gerry O'Brien. Free. 10 am-5 pm. Adelphi Academy (8515 Ridge Blvd. in Bay Ridge, (718) 499-0298).

Gowanus Home Owners Association. Discussion on whether the Superfund is actually super. Noon-3 pm. Brooklyn Yard (600 Carroll St. in Carroll Gardens, (718) 625-0955).

Community Board 7. Hearing on Sunset Park Rezoning. 1 pm. Our Lady of Perpetual Help (50th Avenue between 59th and 60th streets in Sunset Park, (718) 578-0030).

SUN, MAY 17
Donor bone marrow. Help save the life of Kai Anderson, a 5-year-old leukemia. 10 am-2 pm. Prospect Park YMCA (337 5th St., between 5th and 6th avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-7100 X2377). www.hopelifeusa.com

MON, MAY 18
Community Board 2 Parks and Recreation Committee. Monthly meeting 6 pm. Brooklyn Hospital (Dining Rooms A and B) 121 DeKalb Ave., at St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 596-5410.
Society for Clinton Hill. Bimonthly meeting 7 pm. St. Angela's Hall (267 Waverly Ave. between DeKalb and Willoughby avenues in Clinton Hill), (718) 596-5410.

TUES, MAY 19
Community Board 2 Transportation and Public Safety Committee. Monthly meeting. 7 pm. North Park Bank (104 Manhattan Ave. at Calver Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5068).

Community Board 7. Hearing on Sunset Park Rezoning. 1 pm. Our Lady of Perpetual Help (50th Avenue between 59th and 60th streets in Sunset Park, (718) 578-0030).

Community Board 6. Parks and Recreation Committee. Monthly meeting. On the agenda: construction plan. 6:30 pm. Long Island College Hospital (339 Hicks St. near the corner of Atlantic Avenue in Cobble Hill, (718) 463-3027).

THURS, MAY 21
Community Board 1 Public Safety Committee. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm. Community Board 1 office (435 Graham Ave. between Frost and Richardson streets in Williamsburg, (718) 389-0099).

To be an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Newsroom@BrooklynPaper.com.

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Park Slope Paper, Sunset Park Paper, Windsor Terrace Paper.

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S.O.S.!!

Latest 'Show Boat' is a sinking ship

The Butcher of Flatbush Ave. Extension
By Mike McLaughlin

Like the current of the mighty Mississippi, which provided the setting for the show, this vintage Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein musical of racial taboos and star-crossed love was simply too daunting for the Willow Place thespians.

I don't mean to be a Players hater, but with a few exceptions, the Brooklyn Heights company recruited an underwhelming cast that lacks enough energy to propel the audience through the long performance of the classic Broadway musical.

It's all the more disappointing because the show launched under propitious conditions.



Rollin': Andrew Horton is Joe and Elizabeth Ukeje is Queenie in the Heights Players' production of "Show Boat," now through May 23.

Gaylord Ravenal (Anthony Mendez), a handsome drifter. Individually, each actor can boast having a pleasing voice, but they were a mismatched pair with Zelenka's operatic vocal chords burying Ravenal's crooning during their duets.

Another character with potential was Queenie, the cook (Elizabeth Ukeje). Ukeje had appropriately sassy attitude, but not enough punch in her delivery to turn her character into the memorable supporting role it's

THEATER

"Show Boat" at the Heights Players (44 Willow Pl., between Joralemon and State streets, (718) 237-2752) through May 24. Tickets \$20.

meant to be. Director Thomas Tyler could have salvaged the production by throwing some of the extraneous ditties overboard in this plodding show. The first act alone clocked in at almost two hours.

Bottom line, the Heights Players, in a valiant effort, bit off more than it could chew with one of America's best-loved musicals.



Snap judgement

The future of photography is on display now that the second edition of the New York Photo Festival has taken over DUMBO.

Just as at last year's festival, the four curators of the May 13-17 fest each created an exhibit to reflect where photography is going.

Curator Jon Levy's exhibit, for example, is called "Home For Good," featuring the work of several photographers whose various aspects of "home" served as their subjects — things like keep-

sakes from a family album or scraps of newspapers.

Another theme is "Gay Men Play," an exhibit on the way gay life and sex is depicted in photography, put together by curator Chris Book.

Pictured above is the otherworldly "Quanaaq III" by Tiina Ikonen.

Organizers said the curators succeeded brilliantly.

"What we hope to achieve is to mix up the international, the New York City, the Powerhouse and the DUMBO com-

munity into one big pot of photography gumbo," said Daniel Power, co-chair of the New York Photo Festival and owner of Powerhouse Books, a shop and publishing company.

New York Photo Festival at St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St., between Dock and Main streets, (718) 254-8779) and Powerhouse Books (37 Main St. between Water and Front streets, (718) 666-3049), May 13-17. For info, visit www.nyphotofestival.com.

— Aisha Gawad

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MAY RECOMMENDATIONS



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Arca Nova Vinho Verde
One of the best wines for seafood that I know! This crisp, bright, lively dry white wine from Portugal is so easy to like! Chill it & pour it, enjoy it as an aperitif, with shellfish (I love it with garlic shrimp)! light fish, chicken, cream sauces, soft cheese...almost anything.

Mellot Sincerite Rose
DRY! DRY! DRY! This little charmer from the Loire valley is made without a trace of sweetness! There is a characteristic nose of ripe, red raspberry and blackberry. Lush and full on the palate, enjoy this, chilled, with anything from roast chicken to grilled fish to cold cuts and salad!

Panarroz Jumilla
90 Points from Robert Parker? Yeah, I know...I never go by other people's reviews or ratings of wines: I taste the wine and then look at the price, weighing the quality and the value. Now, in all truth, I had already ordered this wine before I saw Parker's review, so I'm still going solely on my own, but it IS nice to know that the world's leading wine critic agrees with me! Made from Monastrell, this red is a touch spicy, with flavors of cherry and licorice. Mouth-filling and rich tasting, this is a bargain you really should not miss!

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Koopmansloof Pinotage
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Saint Tropez Cuvee Du Cep D'or Rose
This is the benchmark for dry Rose wine! The folks in Provence have been drinking roses like this since before the time of the Romans! Served chilled, it is as good as it gets with grilled fish, charcuterie of all sorts, sandwiches & salads, or an herb-bed, roasted chicken. Grenache & Cinsault grapes give complexity and a delightful nose of ripe berries & herbs.

Borgo M Friulano
This used to be called Tocai Friulano, but now it's simply Tocai...and it's simply delicious! This wine comes from the northeast corner of Italy, where acres and acres of Tocai are grown on the sunny hillsides. The cool climate gives the wine a beautiful balance & makes it an ideal "food wine". There is an enticing bouquet of pears & wildflowers with bright, crisp citrus flavors.

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May
Spirit of the Month

Heart Of The Hudson Vodka
Heart Of The Hudson Vodka is a super-premium hand made vodka, produced from 100% Hudson Valley Apples. This fine vodka comes off the still at 191 proof. It is distilled three times, to ensure a deliberately smooth vodka. Bottled at 80 proof, it is Tullihilltown Distillery's purest, lightest spirit. It is a vodka like no other, vodka with honest character. Heart Of The Hudson Vodka IS the perfect vodka! Great over ice or with citrus garnish.

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Wines of the Week

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Selection changes every Friday

Race for Yassky seat starting to heat up

By Thomas Tracy

Community Newspaper Group

The fight to succeed Councilman David Yassky in the 33rd Council district was never considered "scrappy" until Tuesday night, when candidates posed no-holds-barred questions to their opponents and showed some of their true colors in the process.

The outcome of the Park Slope Civic Council's candidate forum was best described by candidate Ken Baer: "We're not as congenial as the guys in the 39th Councilmanic District."

The poorly attended forum was all the more empty due to the absence of two of the seven candidates — Steve Levin and Doug Biviano. Neither, it turns out, was invited in time, though Levin did manage to fax over a statement, which was read to the sparse crowd at PS 282 on Sixth Avenue.

Biviano, the newcomer in the race, was "bummed out," he said.

"I didn't know about it until later that night," he said. "It seems to be an oversight, but I couldn't sleep and I punched my pillow a few times because I missed this great opportunity to address the voters."

Pillow feathers in Biviano's Brooklyn Heights home weren't the only things that were ruffled. Civic Council President Ken Freeman's request that the candidates ask each other a question allowed things to come to a full boil.

Ken Diamondstone and Evan Thies immediately turned their attention to front-runner Jo Anne Simon, with Diamondstone taking her to task for her approach to the much-reviled Atlantic Yards project. Simon co-founded Brooklyn Speaks, a group that wants to change Bruce Ratner's project, rather than backing Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, which wants to take the project out of Ratner's hands entirely.

Simon responded that there are many approaches to fixing Atlantic Yards.

Thies tried to link Simon to John Heyer, who is running as a Democrat in a neighboring council district and is opposed to abortion and gay marriage. Simon didn't answer Thies's query, but reiterated that she supports abortion rights.

When it was his turn to question a fellow office-seeker, Isaac Abraham didn't bother with the interrogative form. Instead, he posed a statement at Thies, arguing that Thies's claim to have worked on environmental issues was invalid because most of the work was done while Thies was a paid staffer to Yassky.

He ended without asking a question: "I've done a lot of work on the environment — all without being paid," he said.

Baer's asked all the candidates the same question: "Do you own a car and did you drive it here?" Abraham admitted that drove to the forum. When Baer tried to win points by saying he takes the subway everywhere, the Hasidic activist undermined him with a joke: "Bravo," Abraham said. "You must have more trust in the MTA than I do."

Diamondstone spoke of owning a 1991 car with a manual transmission that he uses for trips with his partner to Yarmouth, prompting one insider to later joke, "In this crowd, having a gay partner probably outweighs the stigma of owning a car!"

Though most of the forum was dedicated to questions submitted by Civic Council members, the "let the candidates ask" portion was the highlight of the night.

"It was definitely more compelling," Freeman said. "Somebody recommended this to me, and it really worked. There was more of a debate than everyone just making speeches. When they're given a chance to ask the questions, some of them throw an elbow while others throw softball."

The 33rd council district includes parts of Park Slope, Brooklyn Heights, Greenpoint, Williamsburg and Boerum Hill.

—with Gersh Kuntzman

Election '09

CRASH...

Continued from page 1

the department said that on at least two occasions in early May, the streetlight malfunctioned.

Cusack, who witnessed the aftermath of one recent pileup, said the signal was out of order at the time of that crash. And Borough President Markowitz's police liaison, Leslie Lewis, told The Brooklyn Paper that he'd received complaints from other people about glitches at that light.

If the misfiring turn signal is not strictly to blame, there are other theories, including the pervasive opinion that impatient eastbound drivers on Atlantic Avenue are to blame.

Currently, westbound drivers on Atlantic Avenue get the green before eastbound cars, which is designed to allow people to safely make a left turn onto Hoyt Street. In a cruel twist, many Boerum Hill residents think this head start prompts eastbound drivers to conclude their light is green, too — though this is hardly the only intersection in the city where one direction gets a "go" signal first.

"When the westbound light lights, the people eastbound are stopped at a red light. They see the other direction driving, so they're losing patience. They say, 'We're going, too' and they smack into the cars making a left-hand turn," said Lewis, also a member of the Boerum Hill Association.

As a response to the surge in crashes, the Transportation Department said it would install a "Wait for green signal" sign to restrain eastbound drivers on Atlantic Avenue from peeling through the intersection.

The pattern of accidents revived memories of the 2006 crash when a car struck by another vehicle killed a 75-year-old man socializing with friends in front of a bodega on the southeast corner and injured another pedestrian.

Since then, the Department of Transportation has instituted other changes to reduce the high rate of accidents, including installing a turn signal at the troublesome intersection.

The department says its efforts have been largely successful.

"[Since then], accident rates subsequently dropped by nearly a third from the previous year, and there have been no fatalities or pedestrian injuries in that time," said agency spokesman Seth Solomonow.

He said that in 2007, there were 31 reported accidents at the intersection of Hoyt Street and Atlantic Avenue, a figure that dropped to 21 in 2008. Through May 13 of this year, there have been 12 accidents.

The stretch of Atlantic Avenue between Hicks Street and Flatbush Avenue got its nickname, "The Avenue of Death and Destruction," after a 2006 investigation in The Brooklyn Paper discovered that there had been 583 accidents on the strip between Jan. 1, 2005 and Oct. 15, 2006.



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OUR OPINION

Fixing 'Mean Streets'

To its credit, the city Department of Transportation has made an unprecedented effort to encourage and promote bicycle commuting in this congested city. And bike ridership is way up, partially as a result of those efforts.

But the surge in bicycle commuting has caused a rise in conflict between motorists and bicycle riders as they compete for the same turf.

The painting of bike lanes on dozens of streets — as the city has done and continues to do all over Brooklyn — has proven to be no substitute for a comprehensive network that works for the majority of road users (drivers), but also cyclists.

The Department of Transportation has exhibited a haughty approach to community involvement — that is to say, there has been none — that suggests there is unanimity about how to calm Brooklyn's Mean Streets. But one only need look at the comments under our online story about a police bike crackdown in Fort Greene, or Wednesday night's deeply split Community Board 6 vote

Here's one cure for bike-car conflict: give cyclists a few roads of their own.

over a bike lane on Prospect Park West, to see that drivers, pedestrians and cyclists are not on the same page.

The board voted 18-9 for the bike lane, but the reason for the controversy is clear: cyclists and motorists believe that the other holds the balance of power.

Another problem is that the city treats cars and bikes the same: you run a red light or drive on the sidewalk, you get a ticket. You want to get to work by car or by bike, you have to share the roads.

But cars and bikes are not the same. Cars have long enjoyed a virtual monopoly over every street, and drivers don't share the road willingly (despite outweighing bikes by 200-1). To mitigate this, the city has painted bike lanes on major through streets such as DeKalb Avenue, Clinton Street, Third Avenue, Smith Street, Ber-

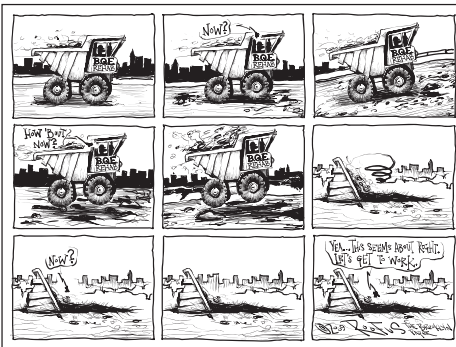
gen Street and, disastrously, Jay Street in Downtown.

But these bike lanes only offer the illusion of safety because of a lack of cohesive planning. When a Brooklyn bridge-bound bicyclist using the lane on Bergen Street wants to make a right turn onto Smith Street, for example, he has to cut off fast-moving cars that are heading straight through the light. In such places, riding a bike feels like going into combat.

That is why the city needs to put the breaks on its haphazard bike-lane expansion and do a better job of truly understanding how poorly many of these lanes work in the places where the rubber actually hits the road.

But such a comprehensive review could — and we think should — incorporate one bike-friendly idea whose time has come: the creation of bike-only portions of some roadways during rush hours. Bikers would use these car-free roadways, giving drivers on the nearby bike-free roads a commute without fear of hitting a cyclist.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Chris Ware

LETTERS

Outraged readers mobbed us with letters

To the editor,

I am bit perplexed why The Brooklyn Paper would write an article that promotes a walking tour focused on the Mafia ("This is one 'Crazy' Tour — Enjoy the sights of South Brooklyn's mob past," May 1).

Maybe you are not aware of the more compelling stories that make up 99.9 percent of Italian and Italian-American contributions to New York. Perhaps you just need to be educated because you did not realize that this type of reporting is biased.

When I did a simple search for "Mafia" on your Web site, there are 22 articles that appear compared to 18 for the terms "Ital-

ian" or "Italians."

William Medici, Manhattan
The writer is head of the Medici Foundation, whose mission is to "preserve and promote Italian-American and Italian heritage for the benefit and enrichment of all people."

To the editor,

Why does your paper insist of treating all Italians as mobsters? Where are the articles that appropriately depict a majority of Italians as hard workers, innovators, pioneers, sports people and the police and fire departments? The list goes on.

Why is it that the media continues to forget that the majority of Italian migrants were (and still are) hard-working, family oriented people?

Does your paper focus on secular Jewish groups and portray them as "totally Jewish"? What about other nationalities?

I have an Italian heritage, and it is time that you take note that neither I nor my family appreciate you creating a biased, stereotypical, sensationalist image of Italians in general to cash in on a few bucks for your article.
Giorgio Repetti, Manhattan

To the editor,

Why the devil would anyone write such an article that promotes a walking tour focused on the Mafia? Did this author, Tom Folsom, conduct a walking tour that might have covered all of the important sections of Brooklyn that were founded by immigrants over the many years and who improved the communities in which they lived?

You would allow it for no other group of people.

When was the last time you allowed such an article to be written about any other ethnic or racial group?

I would appreciate some form of apology to the Italian-American community, especially for those of us who were born, raised, educated and have contributed to the great borough of Brooklyn. As always, free press is allowed in this great country of ours, but what is most important is what is appropriate to our society. That article is and was not!

Joseph Sciamie, New Hyde Park, N.Y.

To the editor,

Enough is enough! I address this to Brooklyn Pa-

per Senior Editor Vince DiMickel.

If you are really of Italian heritage, how can you continue doing this nonsense to fellow Italians?

Those of Italian heritage have been dealing with discrimination for centuries and it is time to stop bringing Italians down.

As one of Italian heritage, why not write about and give tours about the positive contributions Italian-Americans have made to America?

Please cease and desist from this detrimental nonsense and move to promote the positive issues the majority of Italian-Americans have done to advance the Italian standing throughout the world.

James Lisa, Corona, Queens
Editor's note: We received a large number of e-mails regarding our article about author Tom Folsom's walking tour of historic sites in the life of Joe Gallo. The article was not about Gallo's heritage. Indeed, the word "Italian" did not appear in the story.

To the editor,

Recently, I read Mike McLaugh-

lin's article about the reopening of Armando's restaurant ("Is it lights out or sign up for Armando's?" April 7). It immediately

rekindled a memory I thought lost forever. I was born in Brooklyn Heights, but now live in Vero Beach, Florida. My family and I often return to the neighborhood to recharge our social batteries.

Last year, we were shocked to see the little lobster was gone along with all its memories. The sign with the lobster was a beacon that told folks they were home.

"Another piece of history gone," I thought. "How sad." But the news that the sign may return was a shot of hope for me, along with several others I've talked to. How great it would be if the next time we return to the Heights, there would be that little lobster telling us we're home.

I urge the Landmarks Commission to rule for the little lobster's return.

Frank Genovesi, Vero Beach, Fla.

To the editor,

I have to respond to Vito Gen-

tile's recent letter about land bread

("Land ask," letters, April 30). He wrote that "land bread doesn't exist in the United Kingdom." Wrong!

He doesn't have to long in vain for his fatty treats. Land bread is known by several names in several regions in the United Kingdom, including "Foursies Cake" or "Lardy Jolns," among others.

Please don't perpetuate this culinary chauvinism, claiming that lardy treats come exclusively from the Italians.

British food has been maligned and misunderstood for too long! **Kate Perry, Kingston upon Thames, England**

To the editor,

It's important to note that after meeting with members of the community and hearing their concerns about the proposed athletic center, St. Joseph's College announced that it is rethinking its plans so that they better fit into the neighborhood ("Rejected," St. Joe's, this week).

The willingness to re-examine development plans is incredibly rare in institutions, especially in

our crowded city, and St. Joseph's

should be praised for their commitment to being a good neighbor.

Simone Bankoff, Windsor Terrace
The writer is executive director of the Historic Districts Council.

To the editor,

Three groups deserve the thanks of Brooklyn residents for preventing the construction of a basketball stadium in Clinton Hill by St. Joseph's College:

1) The residents of Clinton Hill, who created their neighborhood's historic district to protect the appearance, living conditions and property values of their attractive community.

2) The members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, who prevented a structure from being erected that would adversely affect the appearance of this handsome historic neighborhood.

3) And the leaders of St. Joseph's College, who accepted the decision of the commission and indicated their willingness to work with their neighbors to design a gym that will enhance the appearance of this vibrant part of Brooklyn.

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9 DAYS...
Continued from page 10

ACT OPENING: Wanderers
by Michael Henry. Fray.
6-8 pm. Corinne Robbins-Hallley (147 Atlantic Ave. between Henry and Broadway Housenry) (718) 855-1672, corinnehall@att.net

FILM: 13 DAYS
Howard Rosenberg's late-career thriller about a presidential assassination attempt is introduced by film critics Andrew Sarris and Molly Haskell. 8:30-10:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music, 135 E. 17th St., New York City. Tickets \$15. Call (212) 636-1300.

THEATER: "THE WHO'S TOMMY"...
See Friday, May 15.

THEATER: "SHOW BOAT"...
See Friday, May 15.

THEATER: "THE NOSEMAN"...
See Friday, May 15.

THEATER: "THE SUCCESS"...
See Friday, May 15.

NEW VIDEO CLASSICAL
"The Marriage of Figaro" by Sarah Kirkland Snider's "Persepolis." With So Percussion. \$29.95. New York: Gas Art Studio (16 Main St., New York City) (212) 212-8500, www.gasartstudio.com

THEATER: "HAMLET"...
See Friday, May 15.

DANCE: "THE SERPENT ROUNDE"...
See Friday, May 15.

THEATER: "THE SUCCESS"...
See Friday, May 15.

READING, BENJAMIN
WALLACE: Author of "The Billionaire's Vinegar: The Mystery of the World's Most Expensive Bottle of Wine." With wine experts David Kamp, David Lynch and Mike Steinberger.
Free. 7-9 p.m. PowerHouse Arena |37 Main St. at Canal St.

READING, LIE FUNDERBERG AND JUSE KLAM:
Authors of "Pig Candy: Taking My Father South, Taking My Father Home: A Memoir" and "Please Excuse My Daughter." **Free.** 7 pm. BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and

[illegible]

ESS OF DARK ALLEY: 8 pm. See Friday, May 15.

THEATER: "THE WHO'S TOMMY" 8 pm. See Friday, May 15.

THEATER: "THE NOSEMAKER ERY'S APPRENTICE:" See Friday, May 15.

THEATER: "HAMLETT:" See Friday, May 15.

DANCE: "LE SERPENT ROUGE:" See Friday, May 15.

MUSIC: ANO ADACHI, MARIE EVELYN, NICK LESLEY, TODD MERRILL: \$10. 8 pm. Issue Project 100. 100% live music. Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 330-0313, www.issueproject100.com

Sunset Park: (718) 768-7638. www.sunsetpark.com

DISCOVERY TOUR: See Saturday, May 16.

PERFORMANCE

THEATER: "THE WHO'S TOMMY:" 2 pm and 8 pm. See Friday, May 15.

DANCE/AFRICA: Four American companies will perform African music and movement. \$20-\$45 (\$10-\$25 \$20 children); 2 pm and 8 pm. Brooklyn Museum of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4141. www.bnm.org

THEATER: "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARK

MUSIC, CHRIS GARNEAU:
\$20 (\$10 students and seniors)
8:00 p.m. Bargemusic
[Fulton Ferry Landing, Old
River Street at the East
River in DUMBO, (718) 624-
2933], www.bargemusic.org

**MUSIC, TAMAR KALI'S PSY-
CHOCHAMER ENSEMBLE:**
\$10, 8 p.m. Kondele
Center 35, Oxford St.
at Lafayette Avenue in
Greenwich Village, (718) 488-9233,
www.kondele.org

THEATRE, "A GATHERING":
Metaphysical theatre. \$15-
\$18. 8:30 p.m. Brooklyn
Lyceum [227 Fourth Ave.,
between 3rd and 4th Sts. Park
Slope, (718) 857-4166]

See Friday, May 15.

THEATRE, "SHOW BOAT":
See Friday, May 15.

**THEATRE, "THE INNOVATOR'S
APPRENTICE":** See
Friday, May 15.

THEATRE, "HAMLET": See
Friday, May 15.

**THEATRE, "DEEPENING
ROUGH":** See Friday,
May 15.

**THEATRE, "THE SUCCESS
OF FAILURE (OR, THE
FAILURE OF SUCCESS)":**
\$30-\$42. \$20. See Friday,
May 22.

CLASSICAL CONCERT:
Wesley Bach, Greenough
and Faure. \$35 (\$20 stu-
dents), 8 p.m. Bargemusic
[Fulton Ferry Landing, Old
River Street at the East
River in DUMBO, (718) 624-
2933], www.bargemusic.org

FRI, MAY 22

DANCEAFRICA: Four American companies inspired by African music and movement. \$20-\$45 (910) 522-50 children; 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

THEATER, "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARKNESS" *by* Daphne

□ □



Brooklyn kickballers say that newly planted trees in McCarren Park force them to play back to back.

Kickballers bummed over new trees

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

There's a new green monster in the sportsworld — a stand of new trees that have proven to be a kick in the kickballs to McCarren Park's most popular athletes.

The spindly trees, planted around the Greenpoint park within the last month, have forced the organizers of the famed kickball league to reorient playing fields in a new configuration that puts players at risk of dangerous out-of-field collisions, the sportsmen and women told The Brooklyn Paper, the borough's semi-official kickball organ.

The 20-odd baby trees, which were planted as a part of Mayor Bloomberg's "Million Trees" program, affect all three Brooklyn Kickball fields, which are used simultaneously on Sunday nights.

"You have to watch out, or else you'll get hit in the back of the head," said Bushwick resident B.J. Steiner of the "Divine Sisterhood of the Sacred Bleeding Heart" squad.

According to Brian Riccardi, who plays for "P. Diddy's White Party featuring Fat Kid Hustle," some of the players' free-spirited nature might put them in even greater peril.

"We were basically in the

other field whenever one of the big kickers came up," said Riccardi. "Considering our steady diet of PBR [a popular 'beer'], someone is bound to get hurt."

The city claims it planted the saplings simply to restore the green space to Gilmore Clark's 1950 design.

"This area was originally conceived as a passive-use area," Parks Department spokesman Phil Abramson wrote in an e-mail. "With many venues in McCarren Park already dedicated to active recreation such as its ball fields, turf field, running track and basketball courts, we also strive to ensure that space is available for more passive pursuits such as picnics, sunbathing, and book reading."

But kickball sources say they can't comprehend why their section of the park — which includes a baseball diamond and is cordoned off from the more passive areas of the park with a walking path — doesn't qualify for active recreation.

Some kickballers want the city to transplant the newly seven arbores across the path and off the playing field, while others claim that the game must go on.

"I don't think it matters that much," said Sam Doroff of the "Mathletes" team. "I'm just excited to be out here for the season."

Fence work stripped by cops

By Emilia Brock
The Brooklyn Paper

An evolution-themed artwork that beautified an ugly scaffolding was ripped down by state officials who claimed the artists did their public service without permission.

On May 8, the artist group De-Fence installed wood cut-outs of various flora and fauna on the eyecore scaffold that has surrounded the Empire Stores warehouse in DUMBO for two years. The work depicted a storyline of evolution, moving from small water creatures to a throng of birds bursting into flight.

Locals hailed the piece, but the more important critics work at the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which removed the artwork on Monday.

"I can't say I'm surprised,"



State parks workers removed the artwork claiming that the creators did not ask for permission.

the nature-friendly artwork vandalism.

"They never even attempted to get permission," Gordon said. "We have lots and lots of art events, but you just have to ask for permission."

The art project was timed to coincide with B.K.L.Y.N. Designs at St. Ann's Warehouse on Water Street between Main and Dock streets, across from the decrepit Empire Stores, a Civil War-era building that is falling apart as the state decides what to do with it.

After state workers did their dirty work on Monday, locals were upset at the return of the "bleak fence," Jeffreys said.

"Residents from the area were so sad that it was going," he said. "If it's an improvement and everyone likes it, can't we listen to that and make it work?"

DARE...

Continued from page 1

Samaha was there that night, when the gun-wielding terrorists burst into the store.

"One man pointed a gun at me and the other held a gun to my wife's head," said Samaha, who was still seething with cold rage a week after the vicious attack.

If Samaha gets his chance to mess up the muggers, he'd actually be the second neighborhood grocery owner who fought back. On May 9, owners of Blondie's Deli, on Greenwood Avenue between East Seventh Street and Prospect Avenue, responded with a brutal force that took even the thugs by surprise.

In that incident, the sixth in the gangsters' month-long spree, the robbers burst into the store just before 7 pm. One of the brutes jumped up onto the counter and reached into the register, but the store's owner lunged at him, driving him outside, where the fight continued.

Moments later, the owner's uncle leapt out of the store with a baseball bat, swinging for the fences and sending the thugs fleeing to the safety of their getaway car.

Police said the latest two attacks are part of a string of remarkably similar incidents by the two gunmen and their accomplice in a black Ford Expedition SUV.

"They always hit someplace close to a highway, so they can get away quickly," said a police spokeswoman.

Cops say that the reign of terror started on April 6 at Saruba Grocery, on the corner of Avenue K and East 37th Street in Flatlands, but this robbery was foiled because the thugs could not get the cash register open.

Three more incidents quickly followed:

- On April 22, the gunmen returned to Saruba Grocery at around noon, pistol-whipped a customer, and emptied the register.
- On April 29, the thugs entered a grocery store on Third Avenue in Bay Ridge at 10 pm, and one of the gunmen shot the clerk in the left shoulder before running off with a fistful of dollars. Police have not released the name of that store.
- On May 3, the two men stormed into Greenwood Mini Mart on Seventh Avenue at 20th Street at 8:30 pm, brandishing guns and demanding cash. They got what they wanted, then fled in their getaway car.

Police are urging anyone with information about the crimes to call (800) 577-8477 (TIPS). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers Web site at www.nypdcrimestoppers.com or by texting their tips to 274637 (CRIMES), then entering TIPS77.

—Evan Gardner

TICKETS...

Continued from page 1

with jaywalking. New York can afford to look the other way as long as the bikers are riding safely."

The red light violation carries a \$120 penalty, and this was Levy's second pedaling punishment this spring.

Back in Fort Greene on Friday, one biker was slapped with \$350 in tickets for running a red light on Lafayette Avenue and not properly signaling as he made a turn onto the Carlton Avenue bike lane.

"There have to be rules for bicyclists, but cycling needs to be encouraged," said the suddenly discouraged Bron Snyder, a music producer from Clinton Hill. "Now I have \$350 in fines. It seems irrational since it's a minor infraction. It's egregious."

Cops said the crackdown was long overdue.

"It was targeted towards enforcing traffic laws," said a police source from the 88th Precinct. "Running a red light is not safe for the cyclist or anyone else in the street."

The ticket blitz is a bitter irony for bikers who have complained since the lane's creation last year that vehicles, including officers at the 88th Precinct stationhouse near the corner of Classon Avenue, but especially delivery trucks, regularly block the lane with parked cars along the busy corridor.

Cop sources conceded that the new found heightened enforcement of the traffic rules came only after motorists and pedestrians mounted complaints about dangerous and illegal maneuvers by their two-wheel loving neighbors.

One driver, himself stopped at a red light in Clinton Hill, said many bikers are a hazard.

"No, they don't follow the laws," the driver moaned. "Last week, my car got hit by a bike."

And with only five motorists getting nailed in last week's crackdown with citations for obstructing the bikers' route, word quickly spread among rogue riders that they were under scrutiny — and they quickly heeded the lesson of the suddenly strict enforcement.

"This whole ride I've been stopping for red lights," said Lauren Kelleher, near the corner of Clinton Avenue on Monday afternoon. "My roommate just got a ticket for it!"

But most cyclists act like red lights are stop signs, halting just long enough to see that intersections are clear of traffic.

"I stop, at least a quick stop, just to check," said Catalina Monsalve.

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